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Edward
Peacock
Fund*

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

1854

MEMORANDUM
TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION



THE MODERN PATRIOT.

Ex quovis ligno non fit Mercurius.



It has been long given against the World, (every Man making an Exception for himself) that the Predominant of Mankind is Malice and Detraction. I can't help being of ano-

ther Opinion ; Good Nature and Indulgence seem to be rather its Turn : For, it is plain by the Countenance shown to Modern Patriots, That we cannot sin so fast as the World is disposed to forgive,

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providing we don't offend at Random, but by a particular Receipt.

BUT before I enter upon the Character it self of a Modern Patriot, it will not be improper to premise something for the Encouragement of those, whose past Actions may make them apprehensive that they can have no Claim to it.

LET no Man imagine he is excluded, because in the Heat of his Zeal he has made Use of the Power put in his Hands, or of his own natural Abilities, to unhinge the Constitution of Corporations, or to destroy the Priviledges of Burrows, by Promises, Threats, or Subtilities on Points of Form, which Custom had brought to be look'd upon as trivial and unnecessary; let him not despair of Forgiveness, tho' the Instances should not be one or two but much more numerous.

LET not Self-denial prevail so much over any Man, as to make him believe that the suppressing of Evidence in Cases of Life and Death is so great a Blemish upon him, as altogether to cut off his Pretensions.

NAY further, if a Man in an Office of Honour and Profit should in Complaisance give his Opinion, that it was consistent with Law to lay additional Burdens upon his Country, when those, who by the same Law ought to bear a proportionable

Part of them, were to be exempted. If a Man has been an officious Patron of Forfeitures and Prescriptions. If he has given Countenance, and wink'd at the Practices of his Country's most dangerous Enemies, with an Intention to weaken the Hands of its best Friends, let him not despair of the World's Indulgence ; let not the Cries of Widows and Orphans, or of unprofitable Penitents, frighten him from the Hope of attaining one Day the glorious Character of a Father of his Country.

F O R if the overturning the Constitutions of Burrows did produce that Sort of Confusion, which might bring a large Part of the Representation in Parliament into the Hands of a Set of Men, who were disposed implicitly to follow his Directions ; and if he himself *was to be* a Patriot, the World will eagerly swallow his Vindication.

I F in Matters criminal there was no coming at the Guilty, but by bringing in some innocent to suffer, the Desire of doing Justice, and the Multiplicity of Business, which might have made him remember but indistinctly the Order of Words, *Better that ten Guilty Persons should escape, than one Innocent Person should suffer*, will, to be sure, excuse him in the Eyes of the World.

I F he gave his Opinion unfavourably
for

for his Country in Matter of Taxes ; if he was zealous in Forfeitures and Prescriptions ; if he weakned the Hands of his Country's best Friends, by the Means of its Enemies, the World will be so charitable as to ascribe such Behaviour to a political Foresight, in Order to prevent greater Evils, and to an earnest Desire of converting those who were in a wrong Way ; well knowing that no Usage could make his Country's real Friends forget their Duty. Were the World as bad as it is called, in Place of judging thus, Men's Mouths would be full of his Compliance for worldly Advantage, of his wild Zeal to ingratiate himself with a Party, or his unbounded Ambition to bring himself to the Head of it, or of his inveterate Resentment against particular Persons.

THUS accus'd, and thus fully vindicated, the Scene is open to him, and nothing hinders him from entering upon a Part, which it needs no very great Skill to play. No new Qualities are requisite to form a Modern Patriot ; all the old Ones serve in their former Places : And, as to the inward Constitution of the Person, the only Difference between his old and his new Character is the Difference of being in Place and turned out. *Hudibras* says somewhere,

What

*What makes all Doctrines plain and clear?
 About two hundred Pounds a Year;
 And that which was prov'd true before
 Prove false again? Two hundred more.*

IF *Hudibras* had had the whole Question in his View, he would have told us, that two hundred Pounds less has exactly the same Effect.

A modern Patriot is he who knows how to fit himself to all political Events, so as to draw Profit from being employ'd, and an Advantage even from his Disgrace: The first Branch of his Character is but preparatory and illustrative to the second, which is the shining Part of his Action, and, which is of the utmost Importance to him, to begin at a favourable Point of Time: For, as I have supposed our Patriot to be an Actor, it concerns him much more to humor the Motions and Passions of his Audience, than to be in the least affected himself with his Part.

As skilful Physicians, when a Patient is inoculated with the small Pox, take Pains in preparing his Body, that the Medicine may have the better Effect; so our future Patriot must chuse some proper Season to begin his Operation at. Most Authors agree, that this happens when the Body
 po-

politick is in the greatest Ferment; and Humours just upon the Point of breaking out. The Time of the Moon ought to be consulted too, for that Luminary is observed to have great Influence upon all popular Distempers.

SOME Patriots thro' Unskilfulness, and some thro' Laziness ly by, till the Course of Things bring about this favourable Juncture for Beginning their Show: Happy is the Man, whose mischievous Activity can create Disturbances where there was none before, whose flexible Invention can prove Measures to be destructive, which no Man but himself ever took in his Head to maintain not to be so, and who, for the Reward of so ingenious a Contrivance, has found the Secret of putting himself at the Head of a Cry against the Issue of his own fruitful Brain.

SUPPOSE (to take one or two of the former Examples) our Patriot should have taken it upon him to reconcile to Law the laying an additional Tax on his Country, in a Way, which to every one on Earth appeared to be illegal, so manifestly illegal, that the Projects were dropt for that very Reason, and another Method taken not illegal, and not so grievous: Suppose too, that this bold Engagement should not only have been made in Private, but also
in

in the Face of the Legislature ; nay, that he should have answered the Remonstrances of his Constituents snappishly, when they complain'd of this ; I say, let all these Things be supposed in their very worst Shape, and yet our Patriot, the very Moment he is out of Place shall slap dash be received as the profest Champion of the Clamour. I know not which to admire most, the kind Forgetfulness of the World, or the cool Assurance of the Patriot to depend upon that Forgetfulness.

FOR being barely vindicated is not the Question now : The Mob enters deeper into his Views ; they relish his former Excuses, and frame new Reasons, which he never dream'd of. What was doubtful before, is now obvious to the meanest Capacity ; and if Scepticks should have formerly suspected, that to be still in Power might be at the Bottom of his Advice, they now see with Admiration, that he took the only Way to distress the Government by giving the Advice first, and then opposing the Execution of it : They blame their own Blindness not to have done him Justice sooner.

IN the same Manner, if our Patriot, for a Course of some Years, made it his Business to extirpate a particular Set of Men from the Face of the Earth ; If Banishments

ments, Forfeitures, and Imprisonments were to be their only Lot ; if once in a Twelve-Month he thought fit to do any one of the Party a small Favour, which cost him nothing : Let but the lucky Turn happen, and he shall be the Darling of those very Men whom he oppress : While those who protected them, and advised Measures of Lenity are either forgot, or ill used by them. They too will invent Motives for him ; that he by these Means render'd the Government odious, and play'd their Game for them the more securely. In short, when he is once an enter'd Patriot, he may do what he will, and leave to the Mob to account for it.

BUT before he abandons himself intirely to this Run of Popularity, he will (if he takes my Advice) write a very humble Epistle to the Persons who turn'd him out, in which may appear all the Words which denote an implicate Resignation. — *In Place or out of Place, still a faithful Servant to His Majesty.* — *Outward Accidents of Fortune can make no Alteration in his Inclinations nor Actions.* — And concluding, *That tho' it may not have been for the Interest of the Service to continue him in his former Office ; yet he hopes His Majesty does not mean it as a Mark of any personal Dis-*
pleasure:

*pleasure : That faithful Service ———
 500 lib. ——— Reversion ——— with what fur-
 ther Goodness ——— pleased to show, &c.
 The World may in Time be oblig'd with a
 Copy of a Letter, which is a Master-piece
 in this Way, and may serve as a Model for
 future Performances of that Kind.*

DURING the Expectation, by the Course of the Post, our Patriot must sit very silent, and be a contented By-Stander : This is indeed a Time of great Constraint, when he is forced to keep an Eye both upon his past and future Character, that he may with equal Ease enter upon either the one or the other : At last the expected Moment comes, and the humble Desire of the Petition is refused. Then our Patriot is false to his own Interest, if he does not stily deny that he ever wrote any such Letter ; 'Twas true, that the Thing was offer'd to him, nay prest upon him ; but oh his Country ! ——— and then the good People belive him, and weep.

NOW the Sword is drawn, and the Scabbard thrown away : Tremble ye Ministers that have incurred his Anger ; for this *Drawcansir* will eat you all up in a Moment. Talk to him of Law, and he raves ; speak of the Judges, and he appears in Print ; nay he will put his Name to what he prints :

But as he can never get the Better of his Politicks, he thinks it more convenient that it should be own'd by other People.

I fear I have made him go too far. As his Life is to be one continu'd Rotation from Employment to Disgrace, and from Disgrace back again to Employment, it must not be thought that he will be unmindful of his next Stage ; yet it is found by Experience, that Patriots will take different Courses according to their different Abilities. One Man of a mild Temper, and insinuating humane Manner, pretends a Journey for his Health, but slips sliely away to represent Matters at the Fountain : While another sees his Reinstallment so near, that he does not stir one Foot, but, by the Favour of his Popularity, he *forces* himself into Place again in Spite of his Opponents. This is to make One's self considerable.

BUT how his Scheme succeeded ; how the Ministry made their Court to him ; and how he refused them a Hearing ; how they sat down on their Knees to him, and beg'd him to accept of being at the Head of Affairs ; and how just as he was spurning them from him with his Foot, the Tea-Table tumbled over and wak'd him, may be the Subject of a second Part.

F I N I S.

③ 233-18 Rotum

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